

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-21, 25-30 are currently pending in the application, claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 22-24 and 31-32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

Claims 1, 8, 17 and 29 have been amended. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2; claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 9; and claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 31. Claim 29 has been amended to correct a typographical error by deleting the verb "is". Due to the nature of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the application.

Claim Objection

Claim 29 was objected to for syntax. Applicant has amended this claim to clarify the subject matter claimed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2, 9, and 31 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a matter of convenience, however, Applicant has amended the independent claims to the same scope as the allowable claims by amending independent claims 1, 8 and 17 to include the subject matter of allowable claims 2, 9, and 31, respectively. It should be noted that the scope of the allowable subject matter has not been narrowed by the present amendments.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the rejections have been rendered moot by the present amendment. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance of the application are solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY


Daniel Bucca, Ph.D.
Registration No. 42,368

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 DB:MWE
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087
Date: December 15, 2003